Turn down of Cogentrix Proposal

2263. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have turned down the cogentrix proposal;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal and the reasons as to why it was not acceptable to Government; and

(c) whether any alternatives to the Cogentrix proposal has been evolved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA):(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No proposal in this regard has so far been received from Government of Karnataka.

Report of National Rural Development Institute, Hyderabad

†2264. SHRI JANESHWAR MISRA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is one of the most backward countries in the matter of women rights as per the report submitted to the Prime Minister by National Rural Development Institute, Hyderabad;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Uttar Pradesh is the most backward State in the country in this matter; and

(c) if so, what action so far has been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA): (a) India Rural Development Report brought out by National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad has discussed the gender issues in India. The Report quotes the Human Development Report 1999 brought out by UNDP which has developed Gender Related Development Index (GDI). This index reflects the gender disparities in basic human capabilities. GDI has been presented for 143 countries and India Ranks 112. However, GDI does not reflect

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

on women's right but only provides the overall status on women as compared to men based on life expectancy, sex ratio, literacy rate, share in economically productive population, wage rates and share of earned income.

(b) The value of GDI for India in 1995 is 0.388. Among the Indian States, Kerala records the highest GDI of 0.565 while Uttar Pradesh has the lowest GDI at 0.293.

(c) The programmes being supported by the Ministry of Rural Development and implemented through State Governments/District Rural Development Agencies for promotion of self-employment, wage employment, shelter, social security amongst the families below poverty line in rural areas, have special focus in improving income levels and empowerment of rural women. The Ministry also supports a programme by name National Maternity Benefit Scheme for the benefit of rural poor women.

Availability of potable water

†2265. SHRI JANESHWAR MISRA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that potable water is not available in 40 per cent, villages in India;

(b) whether it is also a fact that potable water is not available for the total population in the cities also; and

(c) if so, what is being done by Government to provide potable water to the people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) As per the information furnished by the State Governments, as on 1st April 1999, 97.59% of the rural habitations have access to drinking water facilities.

(b) Out of the urban population of 23.93 crore as estimated for 31st March, 1997, approximately 21.57 crore have been provided with access to drinking water facilities till 31st March, 1997.

(c) Drinking Water Supply is a State subject. The State Governments

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